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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter dated 30 July 1991 from the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations was addressed to the President of the Security Council. In accordance with the request therein contained, the letter is being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 30 July 1991 from the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the statement of 30 July 1991 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I request that this letter, together with the enclosed statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Enclosure

Statement issued on 30 July 1991 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

At present, the interest of mankind is converging on the subjects of reducing nuclear armaments, removing their danger and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons on the globe.

The collossal amount of nuclear weapons deployed on the soil of south Korea and their danger make the Korean peninsula the world's focal point.

The international response to the joint statement recently issued by the political parties and public organizations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea clearly represents the concern of the peace-loving peoples of the world over the snowballing nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula and their desire for the denuclearization of this region.

Despite changes in the situation in different parts of the world, the situation on the Korean peninsula alone continues to be aggravated rather than alleviated. This is entirely attributed to the nuclear threat policy pursued by the United States against us and to the presence of its nuclear weapons.

The nuclear weapons deployed in south Korea not only pose a serious threat to the existence of our people but also constitute a grave danger to peace and security in Asia and the world.

Out of its noble desire to remove the danger of a nuclear war from the Korean peninsula and to contribute to the durable peace and security in our country, Asia and the world, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took already long ago a series of peace initiatives, including the proposal to establish a nuclear-free, peace zone on the Korean peninsula, and made sincere efforts for their materialization.

The changing situation today raises the establishment of a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula as the mature demand that brooks no further delay.

The major nuclear weapons States, which consider the Korean peninsula their operational theatre for a nuclear showdown, are moving from confrontation to cooperation and are reaching agreements on the reduction of nuclear weapons. This fact affords a new objective possibility for turning the Korean peninsula into a zone free from nuclear weapons.

These days the United States takes the posture of not objecting in principle to the establishment of a nuclear-free zone on condition that the parties concerned reach an agreement thereof and expressing support for the proposal for establishing nuclear-free zones in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa.

We consider that, if the United States and the south Korean authorities take a fair approach to our peace initiatives, join us in our sincere efforts to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone and follow the current of the times, the source of the danger of a nuclear war can be rooted out without difficulty on the Korean peninsula.

It is with such expectation and conviction that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea puts forward the following new proposal for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

1. The north and south of Korea shall agree on the establishment of a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula and make a joint declaration thereof.

We consider that the north and south should negotiate all the legal and practical matters related to turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and adopt a joint declaration with legal effect not later than the end of 1992.

We consider that the joint declaration should provide for a ban on the testing, manufacturing and possession of the nuclear weapons by the north and south, the prohibition of the development and passage of nuclear weapons and of the nuclear military exercises in the sphere of the nuclear-free zone of the Korean peninsula and the verification of the absence of nuclear weapons through inspections of the north and south.

2. The United States, and the Soviet Union and China, the nuclear weapons States neighbouring on the Korean peninsula, shall legally guarantee the nuclear-free status of the Korean peninsula, once an agreement is reached and a declaration is adopted to this effect.

The nuclear weapons States must stimulate the process of establishing a nuclear-free zone by expressing their willingness not to hinder the Korean peninsula from becoming a nuclear-free zone but guarantee such status.

Within one year after the north and south of Korea jointly declare the establishment of a nuclear-free zone, the nuclear weapons States should remove all factors contravening the nuclear-free status of the Korean peninsula and give assurances that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons, as required by international law.

Particularly, the United States, the party that has deployed its nuclear weapons in south Korea, must take measures to withdraw these weapons in conformity with the requirement of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

3. The non-nuclear weapons States in Asia shall support the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and respect its nuclear-free status.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is ready to hold bilateral or multilateral negotiations any time to discuss the matter of establishing a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula.

This proposal is of weighty importance in eliminating the nuclear threat against us and strengthening the system of nuclear non-proliferation in the Korean peninsula and, furthermore, will make a substantial contribution to consolidating peace and security in Asia and the world.

If the Korean peninsula is turned into a nuclear-free zone, it will create a favourable phase for creating a nuclear-free zone in northeast Asia and lay down a basis for expanding the nuclear-free zone to the rest of the North East Asia region.

Proceeding from its anti-nuclear, peace-loving policy, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea solemnly declares at home and abroad its readiness to take all the necessary measures to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.